

SENATE No. 1435

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Moore, Richard (SEN)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

Resolve relative to state government accountability, economy, and efficiency

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Moore, Richard (SEN)

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE relative to state government accountability, economy, and efficiency

Resolved, That a special commission be appointed to investigate and study methods of improving the accountability, economy and efficiency of the government of the Commonwealth and the operation of its agencies, departments and instrumentalities, hereinafter referred to as “the commission”.

1 SECTION 1. Purpose.

2 The purpose of the commission shall be to make recommendations to the Governor and the
3 General Court to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the
4 public business in the various departments, agencies and instrumentalities in the executive,
5 legislative and judicial branches of state government, and in making the operation of all state
6 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, and all expenditures of public funds, more directly
7 responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth, by any or all of the following means:

8 a) By adopting methods and procedures for reducing expenditures to the lowest amount
9 consistent with the efficient performance of essential services, activities and functions.

10 b) By eliminating duplication and overlapping services, activities, and functions, and time-
11 consuming or wasteful practices.

12 c) By consolidating services, activities, and functions of a similar nature.

- 13 d) By abolishing services, activities, and functions not necessary to the efficient conduct of
14 state government.
- 15 e) By the elimination of unnecessary state departments and agencies, the creation of
16 necessary new state departments and agencies, the reorganization of existing state departments
17 and agencies, and the transfer of functions and responsibilities among state departments and
18 agencies.
- 19 f) By defining or redefining duties and responsibilities of state officers.
- 20 g) By revising present provisions for continuing or permanent appropriations of state funds
21 or bond authorizations, for whatever purpose, by eliminating any such existing provisions and by
22 adopting new provisions.
- 23 h) By establishing means for performance measurement and methods of reporting such
24 measurement.
- 25 i) Reorganizing all aspects of state career public service including, but not limited to, methods of
26 recruitment and retention of state employees; training and re-training of state employees; job
27 classification, salaries and benefits of state employees; discipline and termination of state
28 employees, clarifying the state responsibilities and functions that are best served by regular state
29 employees and those best served by contract employees; and encouraging and facilitating
30 opportunities for private sector and non-profit sector employees to work in state government for
31 limited periods of time.
- 32 j) By analyzing and evaluating all state contracts with private vendors for the purpose of
33 confirming that all contracted approaches to the delivery of goods and services are accountable,
34 economical, and efficient.

35 k) To review state requirements for contracting for goods and services and for the retention of
36 professional services to determine the most effective means of determining the most qualified
37 vendor, including but not limited to, a review of the method by which state agencies, authorities,
38 boards and commissions retain legal counsel, accounting, architectural and engineering services.

39 Section 2. Membership.

40 The commission shall be comprised of the following members, each of whom shall serve at the
41 pleasure of the appointing authority:

42 a) Thirteen members, of whom seven shall be appointed by the Governor, three by the
43 President of the Senate, and three by the Speaker of the House. Not more than seven of such
44 members shall be registered voters in the same political party, and none shall hold public office
45 in the executive or legislative branches of the state government. Leading Massachusetts
46 residents in the fields of business and government management, accounting, labor relations,
47 finance, and human relations including, but not limited to deans of schools of business, public
48 administration or other scholars would be ideal candidates for these appointments.

49 b) Five members of the Massachusetts Senate who shall be the Senate Chair of Ways and
50 Means, the Senate Chair of the Committee on Taxation, the Chair of the Senate Committee on
51 Post Audit and Oversight, and two members designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

52 c) Five members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who shall be the House
53 Chair of Ways and Means, the House Chair of the Committee on Taxation, the Chair of the
54 House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, and two members designated by the House
55 Minority Leader.

56 d) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, who shall
57 jointly designate the chair or co-chairs of the Task Force, shall each serve on the Task Force, ex-
58 officio.

59 e) The Auditor of the Commonwealth and the Inspector General of the Commonwealth, ex-
60 officio.

61 Section 3. Meetings and Reports.

62 The Commission shall meet monthly and should have the authority, subject to the approval of the
63 Secretary of Administration and Finance, to request staff support and research from state
64 agencies to carry out its responsibilities. The Commission may seek assistance from other
65 organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The Commission shall file annual reports with
66 the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives and shall make a final
67 report not later than June 30, 2010. The Commission may make interim reports as appropriate in
68 order to address the serious fiscal problems facing the Commonwealth in the next few years.